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SECURITY INFORMATION

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION
FOR
POLITICAL PROSPECTS IN IRAN**

I. Estimated Tudeh strength in Iran:

A. July 1953 -- 20,000 to 35,000, with an estimated hard core of 1,000.

(1) Tudeh sympathizers number several times this figure.

B. April 1953 -- Tudeh strength in armed forces estimated at 1,600; about 20 percent of military school students believed members.

II. 19 June Tehran demonstrations:

A. Government sponsored -- 3,000.

B. Tudeh demonstrators (marching in other parts of city) -- 12,000.

III. 21 July 1953 Tehran demonstrations:

A. Government sponsored -- 10,000 to 20,000.

B. Government-sanctioned Communist demonstrations -- 50,000 to 100,000.

IV. Legal status of Tudeh in Iran:

A. 1949 -- declared illegal by ministerial action and approved by Majlis.

B. 19 March 1953 -- Ministry of Justice reportedly exonerated top Tudeh leaders who had been sentenced to death "in absentia."

(1) Ruled that the Tehran military court lacked jurisdiction.

C. No firm indication that Mossadeq will legalize Tudeh.

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V. Tudeh support of Mossadeq:

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- A. 4 April 1953 -- Tudeh member told [] that the party had instructed its members to "protect" Mossadeq's government against a possible coup.

VI. Mossadeq's proposed administration of referendum:

- A. Two persons in each constituency to be nominated to supervise referendum committees in charge of polls.
- B. In each polling center, two boxes will be installed, one for votes in favor and the other for votes opposed to dissolution of the Majlis.
- C. Referendum in Tehran and suburbs in one day, to be held in entire country within seven days.
- D. As soon as all votes are collected, they will be forwarded to the Ministry of Interior and final results will be announced.

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